

UTAH TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

May 16, 2014
Monticello, Utah

The regular meeting of the Utah Transportation Commission was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chairman Jeffrey D. Holt, in the San Juan County Commission Chambers, 117 South Main, Monticello, Utah. Commissioner Holbrook was excused from the meeting. The following Commissioners, staff members and others were in attendance:

Jeffrey D. Holt, Chairman
J. Kent Millington, Vice-Chairman
Wayne K. Barlow, Commissioner
Dannie R. McConkie, Commissioner
Naghi Zeenati, Commissioner
Gayle F. McKeachnie, Commissioner
LeAnn G. Abegglen, Commission Secretary
Carlos Bracerias, Executive Director
Shane Marshall, Deputy Director
Cory Pope, Program Development Director
Bill Lawrence, Program Development
Bob Pelly, Program Development
Randy Park, Project Development Director
Jason Davis, Engineer for Operations
Pat Morley, Director of Aeronautics
Robert Dowell, Region Four
Kevin Kitchen, Region Four

Monte Aldridge, Region Four
Randall Taylor, Region Four
Chet Johnson, Region Four
Tim Walden, Region Four
Bruce Adams, San Juan County Commission
Phillip Lyman, San Juan County Commission
Kelly Pehrson, San Juan County
Mayor Tim Young, Monticello City
Jeremy Redd, Blanding City
Mark Maryboy, Shiprock
Harold J. Lyman, San Juan County
Lynn Stevens, Gov. Balanced Resource Council
David Boyle, San Juan Record Newspaper
Truitt Purcell, SFW
Tiffany Bayles, SFW
Georgia Black, SFW
Troy Justensen, SFW

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Barlow moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2014, STIP Workshop, and the April 18, 2014, Commission meeting. Commissioner Millington seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

LOCAL AREA PRESENTATION BY REGION FOUR

Monte Aldridge and Robert Dowell from Region Four gave the local area presentation. They reviewed the funding history in San Juan County, 2013 project highlights, 2014 projects, future projects, and traffic and safety projects/improvements.

SPORTSMEN FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE PARTNERSHIP

Monte Aldridge explained that animal vehicle collisions are a huge problem in the area, and he has worked with other agencies to define the problem, figure out a solution, identify costs, and look for funding. He said that the Department loves partnerships and he is grateful today that representatives of one of those partnerships are here today to present their contributions towards the wildlife fencing project on US-191. San Juan County Commissioner Phillip Lyman spoke briefly and expressed appreciation for UDOT's interest in the wildlife fencing. He presented a check from San Juan County for \$25,000. Troy Justensen from Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife said they are grateful to be a partner

with UDOT and San Juan County, and presented a check for \$25,000 from SFW. Additional questions from the Commission were answered by Mr. Aldridge.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commission and UDOT staff introductions were made. San Juan County Commissioner Bruce Adams thanked the Commission for coming to San Juan County. He's grateful for Region Four's leadership team, who meets with them regularly, and appreciates the efforts of the region to try and address some of the road challenges they have in the county, such as "Forest Gump Hill" on SR-163. He also asked UDOT to consider the dangers of the bridge in Mexican Hat. County Commissioner Adams read from a book that talked about the history of the road created in 1879, known as the Hole in the Rock trail, and the history of the road from Hanksville to Blanding. County Commissioner Lyman made brief comments and also thanked the Commission for coming to Monticello. Mark Maryboy, former County Commissioner and former member of the Navajo Nation Council, said he appreciates the work that has been done in San Juan County. In the future, they would like to see the state roads in Aneth and Montezuma Creek improved.

Lynn Stevens, former County Commissioner, commented on the efforts being made to preserve and usability and ownership of the Hole in the Rock trail. He said that State and County ownership of that trail needs to be maintained because it is a significant element of the history of the county. Harold Lyman from Blanding said he has great admiration and gratitude for UDOT. He's a member of the San Juan County Economic Development and Traveler Services Council and commented on the Lake Powell ferry situation. He noted that the four counties involved with the ferry have been planning a marketing effort to help increase tourist travel through the area and reduce the subsidy the state has to provide for the operation of the ferry. Mr. Lyman read an account of a "wedding ceremony" that was performed between Garfield, Wayne and San Juan Counties aboard the ferry when the Hite ferry was dedicated in 1946.

UDOT SCOREBOARD

Randy Park, Project Development Director, gave the report on the construction program, and Jason Davis, Engineer for Operations, gave the report for the Safety program.

LAKE POWELL FERRY UPDATE

Tim Walden from Region Four gave an update on the operations and repairs of Lake Powell's Charles Hall Ferry, which incurred damage during testing of newly installed generator motors. Mr. Walden's presentation included information on the ferry's route between Hall's Crossing and Bullfrog, off-shore storage, operations, the repair process, water projections, water levels, and schedule. It was noted that the current projected opening of the ferry is July 1, 2014. Mr. Walden and others answered questions from the Commission regarding ferry operations. County Commissioner Lyman provided additional information about the ferry and the marina, and stated that the ferry is part of SR-272, which is an essential travel corridor. The county doesn't want to see the demise of that transportation corridor. There was also discussion regarding Hall's Crossing.

AREA AIRPORTS AND TRANSIT PROJECTS UPDATE

Bill Lawrence, Program Finance Director, gave an update on area airports and transit projects. He first demonstrated a new app and features available on UDOT's website that lists all airports that are public access. He focused mainly on the five airports in the area – Monticello, Blanding, Bluff, Halls Crossing, and Bullfrog. Mr. Lawrence next reviewed public transit in southeastern Utah, saying that FTA grants improve local and regional mobility. Services include providing transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities by area agencies, an Intercity Bus route between Blanding and Salt Lake City, which will begin operations this summer, and a rural Fixed Route service by the Navajo Transit System in Utah. Lynn Stevens reported that the Navajo Transit System has not been in service since Thanksgiving; the final issue remaining to get it back into service is the hiring of drivers. Additional discussion focused on the Intercity Bus route between Blanding and SLC.

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING

2014 STIP Amendment #8

Funding Adjustments - At Award and Post Construction

Bill Lawrence reviewed the four projects returning funds at award and the seven projects returning funds at post construction. He requested approval to transfer the funding to be reprogrammed at a later date.

Commissioner Zeenati moved to approve the transfer of funding from the adjustments at award and post construction, as reviewed. Commissioner Barlow seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

SR-10; South Price to Ridge Road Project – Scope Change

Bill Lawrence stated that Region Four is requesting a scope change to the SR-10; South Price to Ridge Road project. They would like to change the scope from “Environmental Study & Design” to “Design/ROW Acquisition and Construction.” The remaining balance of funds would start the design and ROW acquisition in preparation of future funds. Two projects for SR-10 have been recommended for 2018 funding.

Commissioner Millington moved to approve the scope change to the SR-10; South Price to Ridge Road project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zeenati and approved.

Region Four Funding Exchange Request

Bill Lawrence said Region Four is requesting approval to exchange \$2 million of 2015 federal STP Rural funds programmed on the Cedar Valley Belt Loop project with \$1.7 million of Region Four's 2015 State Preservation funds and State Preservation Efficiency funds. Iron County has committed the required 10% match, as indicated in the guidelines. With the exchange, the region would fund the SR-24; Loa to Lyman from MP 51.575 to MP 55.762 project.

Commissioner McConkie moved to approve the funding exchange request between Region Four and Iron County. Commissioner Millington seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Ogden Canyon Corridor Study – New Project

Bill Lawrence explained that during the 2013 Legislative Session, HB 377 was passed, which in part, gave the Commission \$10 million of State Transportation funds to prioritize and program. \$9.349 million of those funds have been programmed. A new recommendation is being made to fund an Ogden Canyon Corridor Study for \$200,000. The purpose of the study is to combine all available information within the canyon and develop an understanding of the long term uses and needs.

Chairman Holt moved to approve the funding for the Ogden Canyon Corridor Study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Barlow and unanimously approved.

Joint Highway Committee Projects Approval

Bill Lawrence noted that the Joint Highway Committee held their annual meeting in April and approved the sub-committee project recommendations for five of their programs to be included in the Draft 2015-2020 STIP, and to be forwarded on to the Transportation Commission for approval.

Commissioner Zeenati moved to approve adding the Joint Highway Committee recommended projects to the Draft 2015-2020 STIP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Millington and unanimously approved.

Pavement Rehabilitation Program

Bill Lawrence said the first adjustment to be made to the Pavement Rehabilitation Program is to a project in Region One. It is a request to transfer \$4.7 million of NHPP_IM funds from the I-15; I-215 to 2600 South project. This would cancel the project and incorporate the funding and scope of work into the I-15; South Davis Operational Upgrades project. It would also remove the funding from the program. The second project is also in Region One and is a request to combine the SR-126; SR-37 to SR-97 project into the SR-126; SR-107 to SR-37 project. Both projects are on SR-126, and the combined project would become SR-126; SR-107 to SR-97, MP 5.74 to 8.74.

Mr. Lawrence explained that the third project would not be combined as planned, due to some right of way issues and the timing not working. Therefore, no request is being made, as the two projects will be completed separately. The fourth project is in Region Four and the request is to add a new project to their FY 2014 Pavement Rehabilitation Program, and fund the US-191; Blanding Cemetery to Devil's Canyon project with \$4.1 million of Region Four Efficiency funds.

Commissioner Barlow made a motion to approve the FY 2015 Pavement Rehabilitation Projects list, with the three changes as requested. It was seconded by Commissioner Zeenati and unanimously approved.

Aeronautics

2015-2019 SCIP (Information Only)

Bill Lawrence said that each year, the Division of Aeronautics presents a 5-year Statewide Airport Improvement Program to the Commission for approval. This year they also created a new Draft Policy on Selecting and Programming Airport Projects. Both are being presented for information only today and will be brought back in the June meeting for approval.

Roosevelt Airport – Funding Increase

Bill Lawrence said that the Roosevelt Airport project was bid out in 2013 with resulting bids significantly higher than the approved funding levels. It was determined that the project should be rebid to see if market conditions would change in 2014. The 2014 bids did come in lower but the project still requires additional funding. The FAA, UDOT, and Roosevelt City are partnering on this project. The current project funding level is at \$1,048,628; the proposed new project funding level is \$1,731,121.

Commissioner McConkie moved to approve the proposed funding adjustment for the Roosevelt Airport Apron Expansion Phase II project. Commissioner Zeenati seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Commission Committee Assignments/Reports

Chairman Holt mentioned that he has talked to Commissioner McKeachnie, who has agreed to take on Eddie Cox's committee assignment on the JHC and become the Aeronautics Liaison. Commissioner Zeenati said he attended the JHC meeting last month; Commissioner Barlow reported that the Corridor Preservation Advisory Council meeting was cancelled, but he did attend the Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee meeting. Commissioner McConkie said he attended the TransCom meeting, but missed yesterday's Quality Growth meeting. He also stated that he attended a few of the annual Local Government visits for the first time, and said UDOT does a great job with those meetings.

Upcoming Transportation Commission Meetings

The next regular Utah Transportation Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 13, 2014, in Roosevelt, Utah. The following meeting dates have been scheduled:

July 2014 – No meetings scheduled
August 14-15, 2014 – Lehi
September 11-12, 2014 – Salt Lake City
October 9-10, 2014 – Bountiful
November 13-14, 2014 – Price
December 5, 2014 – Salt Lake City

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

LeAnn Abegglen, Commission Secretary